

BILLET OF THE WEEK

Are you looking for an excellent opportunity to build, coordinate, and manage a new research program aboard a 67-ft state-of-the-art catamaran operating along the West Coast of California? Check out billet #7652. Billet #7652: Marine Operations Coordinator, National Marine Sanctuary Program, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Monterey, California.

NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program is committed to preserving historical, cultural, and archaeological resources and seeks to increase public awareness of America's maritime heritage by conducting scientific research, monitoring, exploration, and educational programs. Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary has recently acquired a new research vessel to meet these goals, and is seeking an officer to support the ONMS program through either a limited duration detail in the short term (CY 2009) or a full-time assignment to begin as soon as possible. The billet is currently open. Extended TDY/detail will be entertained on a case-by-case basis until the billet can be filled as a permanent three-year shore assignment.

The Marine Operations Coordinator acts as the primary manager for the new 67-ft regional research vessel, the R/V Fulmar, serving three California national marine sanctuaries - Monterey Bay, Gulf of the Farallones, and Cordell Bank. The vessel will be heavily utilized for up to 180 key missions per year including benthic monitoring along the remote Big Sur coastline, marine mammal and sea bird observations, tagging organisms, oceanographic monitoring, archaeological/cultural research (primarily shipwrecks) and collecting baseline data for emerging management issues such as invasive species and marine reserves.

The officer will be based in Monterey, and duties will include acting as sanctuary liaison with science parties, coordinating scheduling for missions and crew, managing maintenance needs and supply purchases, and participating in drills and training including the small boat workshops, constituent meetings, education programs, and public events. In addition, the officer will gain technical and administrative experience and further develop managerial skills that can be applied to future supervisory and operational assignments, both ashore and afloat. The officer will be encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to attend the Naval Postgraduate School on a part-time basis as duties and responsibilities allow. The NPS offers an outstanding opportunity to attend world-class training and programs of study in areas critical to future success in the NOAA Corps - management and leadership. Some day trips, overnights, and week-long cruises to regions in Northern and Southern California are possible, but are dependent on the officer.

If anyone should have any questions regarding this billet, please feel free to contact the NOS Liaison Officer, CDR Mike Weaver at 301-713-7728 or mike.weaver@noaa.gov, or the Chief, Officer Assignment Branch, LCDR Jeremy Adams, at 301-713-7694 or assignmentbranch.cpc@noaa.gov.